

EDUCATION

Master of Landscape
Architecture, Utah State
University, 2006

Bachelor of Science in
Horticulture, Brigham Young
University, 2002, Emphasis:
Urban and Landscape
Horticulture. Minor: Business
Management

Associates of Art, Utah Valley
State College, 2001

REGISTRATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Landscape Architect Licenses

- California, LA 5426,
2008-Current
- Utah, No. 6725476-5301
2007-Current
- Missouri, No. PLA-2023034538
2023-Current
- Washington, No. 24027050
2024-Current
- Oregon, No.0986
2018-2021

International Society of
Arboriculture Certified Arborist,
2002-Current

NRPA Certified Playground
Safety Inspector #173221213,
2010-Current

LEED AP, 2008 / LEED AP BD+C,
2010-Current

ESRI ArcView Certified, 2005

MEMBERSHIP

California Parks and Recreation
Member, 2010-Current

ASLA Professional Member,
2006-Current

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

2023-Current, FIRST Robotics
Competition Team 4135, Mentor

2023-Current, Modesto Junior
College Engineering Tech
(ENGTC) Program Advisory
Committee, Member

2023-Current, Utah State
University LAEP Advancement
Board, Member

2022-Current, Utah State
University CREATE Steering
Committee, Member

2011-Current, ASLA Children's
Outdoor Environments PPN,
Co-Chair/Board Member /
Communications - Blog Editor

Chad Kennedy, ASLA, PLA, CPSI, LEED AP BD+C

Director, Landscape Architecture, Westwood Professional Services

ASLA Council of Fellows Nomination: LEADERSHIP/MANAGEMENT

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the California Sierra Chapter ASLA, it is my privilege to nominate Chad Kennedy, ASLA, for your consideration. Chad Kennedy is an extraordinary leader, mentor, and advocate for landscape architecture whose career has been dedicated to creating inclusive, innovative, and sustainable environments that enrich communities and advance the profession.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Chad's life's work is rooted in designing inclusive play environments that bring together individuals of all ages, abilities, demographics, and socio-economic backgrounds. His influence spans local, national, and global scales, exemplifying his commitment to advancing equity and inclusion through landscape architecture. Chad has delivered compelling presentations at TEDx and numerous national conferences, showcasing the impact of thoughtfully designed spaces to foster connection, inclusion, and sustainability. Early in his career, an interdisciplinary disability course was Chad's introduction to the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. This experience profoundly shaped his professional journey, igniting a lifelong passion for integrating inclusive design principles to serve diverse communities.

Over nearly two decades at his firm, Chad founded and cultivated a thriving landscape architecture department, growing it from a single vision into a powerhouse team producing over 40 professionals. Through his mentorship, countless individuals have developed into leaders championing inclusive design across the United States and beyond. His award-winning projects reflect a seamless blend of innovation and inclusivity, inspiring professionals, clients, and communities alike to embrace the ideals of justice, equity, accessibility, and sustainability.

Chad's dedication extends far beyond his design work. As a mentor, volunteer, and advocate, he has consistently elevated public understanding of landscape architecture and its pivotal role in shaping equitable and sustainable communities. Guided by his unwavering belief in the power of play and recreation, Chad's work has created a legacy of inclusion, resource conservation, and innovative design. He leads with passion, heart, and a contagious enthusiasm that inspires all who encounter him. His love for landscape architecture overflows into every project and interaction, as he consistently seeks opportunities to uplift deserving communities, highlight the value of well-designed landscapes, and create spaces that complement natural beauty while preserving precious resources.

EXCEPTIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER TIME

Throughout his 23-year career, Chad has consistently focused on creating the greatest positive impact in the design and construction of recreation opportunities for all. His dedication to advancing inclusive play design has reached communities both near and far, influencing industry standards and inspiring change. Through presentations, seminars, and targeted blogs for municipalities and recreation-focused organizations such as the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS), Chad has been a relentless advocate for educating the public and allied professionals about the power of inclusive design. By equipping others with the knowledge necessary to drive change, he has fostered the widespread adoption of inclusive concepts across the globe.

Recently, Chad has expanded his work internationally, designing and supporting projects that prioritize inclusive, multigenerational play. His efforts have gained national and global attention through educational forums, including TEDx, and his widely recognized comprehensive play audit, which was presented to playground representatives nationwide by allied inclusive organizations. This exposure has resulted in numerous calls from play-focused professionals seeking his advice and assistance with inclusive designs—guidance that he continues to provide on a complimentary basis. Chad has also contributed significantly to the Conference on the Value of Play (formerly hosted by Clemson University), where he has been a recurring speaker on topics such as inclusive play and trauma-informed design. This prestigious conference unites leading play researchers, park and recreation professionals, educators, health scientists, architects, designers, planners, and advocates from across the globe. In April of this year, Chad will once again present, this time on the mind-blowing influence of inclusive play design in East Africa, where his efforts to showcase the value of play for all children, including children with disabilities (who in this region, are unfortunately deemed as unworthy and even as far as "cursed") is shifting cultural perceptions and promoting inclusivity in the region.

Chad's design philosophy is deeply rooted in a comprehensive, evidence-based approach that prioritizes social and emotional inclusion, sensory integration, trauma responsiveness, and opportunities for discovery and exploration. His designs incorporate graduated levels of physical and mental challenges, cognitive simplicity, and activity-based approaches that foster full participation and independence for all users. These principles are the result of decades of collaboration with educators, advocates, occupational therapists, and disability researchers across the country. By integrating researchers and occupational therapists into his design teams from the

Chad Kennedy, ASLA, PLA, CPSI, LEED AP BD+C

2016-Current, The Awesome Spot Playground Board, Co-Chair

Gallo Center for the Arts Facility Planning Steering Committee (2024-Current)

2006-2022, ASLA California Sierra Chapter Executive Committee Member – San Joaquin Area Representative

2009-2020, Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Commission, Commissioner/Chairperson

2017-2020, ASLA National Professional Practice Network Council, Chairperson

2013-2019, Modesto Downtown Urban Design Group, Member

2010-2019, Modesto International Architecture Festival Committee, Member/Children's Activity Chairperson

2012-2015, Friends of Wesson Ranch Park, Board Co-Chair

2009-2010, Great Valley Green Canopy Initiative Steering Committee, Author/Member

HONORS & AWARDS

National Awards

2024, ASLA Outstanding Service Award

2005, ASLA Student Award, Award of Honor in Analysis and Planning, Bear River Greenway Master Plan

Regional/Local Awards

2024, ASLA California Sierra Chapter – Legacy Award

2018, San Joaquin Engineers Council's 2018 Distinguished Service Award

2016, Modesto's 20 under 40 Award Winner

2013, ENR California's Top 20 Under 40 Award Winner

2008, The "Henry" Conservation Award – Merced Fly Fishing Club

2004, North Logan City Cemetery Design Award

Project Awards

2024 ASLA California Sierra Chapter Design Merit Award, Gem Village Inclusive Playground

outset, Chad ensures his projects reflect a holistic and innovative approach to inclusive play. To Chad, inclusive play environments are more than just spaces—they are a powerful statement about societal values and every individual's right to play.

Chad's leadership in education and design culminated in the release of his first nationally published book, *The Nature of Inclusive Play: A Guide for Designers, Educators, & Therapists*, co-authored with occupational therapist Amy Wagenfeld. This comprehensive guide delves into the health benefits of outdoor play, the historical significance of play in child development, sensory regulation, and inclusive design principles. The book aims to equip designers, planners, educators, and therapists with the knowledge and tools needed to create inclusive play spaces free of limitations or stigma. Recognizing a gap in unbiased, research-based resources, Chad sought to provide a definitive guide to inclusive play, sharing proprietary information to advance best practices across the profession.

Recognizing the need to maximize his influence on the industry, Chad understood that building a team of like-minded, passionate professionals was essential. Starting as a one-person department, he has grown his landscape architecture team to a robust group of over 23 highly skilled professionals, each trained in the principles of inclusive design. Chad devotes significant one-on-one mentoring time to each team member, fostering their skills, capacity, and passion for inclusive play. His mentorship has had a ripple effect—many of his team members have gone on to lead public agencies or design teams across the world, spreading the concepts and principles of inclusive play to new regions and communities.

In addition to his pioneering work in inclusive play, Chad has also been at the forefront of water conservation. When California's statewide irrigation and water standards were first announced, Chad embraced the challenge, viewing it as an opportunity to innovate rather than a restriction. While others resisted the changes, Chad proactively educated the public and public agencies about the upcoming regulations, explaining their implications for communities, projects, and the industry. He has consistently championed the responsible use of resources, demonstrating through his work that eco-friendly landscapes can be functional, beautiful, and impactful. His unwavering advocacy has ensured that sustainability and resource conservation remain at the core of the landscape architecture profession.

INFLUENCE AND IMPACT OF NOMINEES'S WORK ON THE PROFESSION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC ADVANCEMENTS OF THE PROFESSION

Chad exemplifies the ideals of a visionary leader and dedicated professional whose work has profoundly influenced the landscape architecture profession. Through his tireless volunteerism, impactful mentorship, and public advocacy, he has advanced the field while fostering a deeper understanding of its critical role in creating sustainable, inclusive communities.

A Foundation of Service and Leadership

Chad's influence in the profession began early, rooted in a strong foundation of service instilled during his youth through the Boy Scouts of America and his faith-based volunteer mission. These experiences taught him to lead by example, serve selflessly, and inspire others—all traits he carried into his professional life as a landscape architect.

Advancing the Profession through ASLA Leadership

Chad's influence within the profession is exemplified by his significant contributions to the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). Starting in 2011, he joined the fledgling Children's Outdoor Environment Professional Practice Network (PPN), where he established the PPN's highly regarded blog. He authored 14 foundational articles, developed protocols, and mentored contributors, transforming the blog into a respected resource that highlights the importance of inclusive play and outdoor environments. As co-chair of the PPN and later as National Professional Practice Network Council Chairperson, Chad's leadership elevated the visibility and impact of all PPNs within ASLA. His work not only provided valuable education for professionals but also brought inclusive and innovative outdoor environments to the forefront of public awareness, reinforcing the importance of landscape architecture in shaping equitable and engaging spaces.

Mentorship and Cultivating Future Generations

Chad's commitment to preparing the next generation of landscape architects is unmatched. Beyond mentoring employees within his firm, he volunteers as an Adult Mentor for the Beyer High School Robotics Team, where he integrates concepts of STEAM into discussions on design, CAD drafting, and grant writing. Chad actively engages with schools, speaking at career days and serving on the Program Advisory Committee at Modesto Junior College, where he is helping to develop curriculum that prepares students for careers in design-related fields, including landscape architecture. At Utah State University, Chad, as an advancement Board Member, supports the Landscape Architecture Department by reviewing curriculum and mentoring master's program students, ensuring that

Chad Kennedy, ASLA, PLA, CPSI, LEED AP BD+C

2022, ASLA California Sierra Chapter Design Merit Award, Nototomne Park

2020, ASLA California Sierra Chapter Design Merit Award, The Awesome Spot Playground

2020, ASLA California Sierra Chapter Design Merit Award, River Islands Development

2020, ASLA California Sierra Chapter Design Merit Award, May Nissen Playground

2018, ASLA California Sierra Chapter Design Honor Award / CPRS Award of Excellence / APWA Central California Chapter Project of the Year, Earlimart Park

2018, California Sierra Chapter Design Merit Award, Cultural Arts District Park

2016, ASLA California Sierra Chapter Design Merit Award, Beckwith Veterinary Hospital

2015, Outstanding New Facility (Large District) Award Recipient, CARPD, Sunridge Park

2014, Innovative Program of the Year Award CSDA, Sunridge Park

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Dec. 2023, The Nature of Inclusive Play – A guide for designers, educators, and therapists, Routledge Publishing

2010, Urban. Forest. Tree: An Urban Forestry Guidebook for the San Joaquin Valley, Great Valley Center

Articles:

Sept. 2021, May Nissen Playground, Landscape Architect and Specifier News

Fall 2017, “Awesome Partners”, Play & Playground Magazine

Summer 2014, Cover Article, “Sensory Diets in Outdoor Play Environments”, California Parks and Recreation Magazine

Sept. 2012, “Comprehensive Inclusive Play Spaces!”, California Association for the Education of Young Children Magazine

Jul/Aug 2012, “Creative Messy Play: A Child’s Strategy for Learning”, Canadian Horticultural

graduates are equipped with the skills and confidence to excel and make meaningful contributions to the profession.

Public Advocacy and Education

Chad has made significant strides in raising public awareness of landscape architecture. As a key organizer of Modesto Architecture & Design Week for eight years, he created engaging opportunities to showcase the value of the profession to diverse audiences. One of the festival’s standout events was a children’s day that introduced hundreds of youth to landscape architecture through creative, hands-on activities like water conservation experiments, city planning games, and planting projects. These initiatives sparked curiosity, inspired the next generation, and underscored the profession’s critical role in building sustainable and inclusive communities.

Lifetime Commitment to Volunteerism

Volunteerism is a cornerstone of Chad’s career, with 29 completed pro-bono projects that span parks, playgrounds, and community spaces. These projects, with design values ranging from a few thousand to hundreds of thousands of dollars, have provided underserved communities with life-changing spaces that otherwise would not have been possible. Through these efforts, Chad has demonstrated the tangible benefits of landscape architecture to new audiences, fostering appreciation and understanding of the profession’s far-reaching impact.

A Lasting Legacy

Chad’s influence extends well beyond the spaces he designs. His ability to inspire others, nurture the next generation of professionals, and advocate for the value of landscape architecture has left a profound and lasting imprint on the profession. His upper management role as a senior level director at a national multi-disciplinary design firm, and his universal impact on the company, regardless of discipline, exemplifies how landscape architects can lead complex teams with purpose, drive innovation, and strengthen communities. Through his leadership, mentorship, and advocacy, Chad has elevated the role of landscape architecture as a vital force for creating equitable, sustainable, and inclusive communities.

THE NOMINEE’S PERSONAL LEADERSHIP ROLE AND ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITY DEMONSTRATED IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF PROJECT INITIATION OR DESIGN, POLICY FORMATION, OR PLANNING

Through visionary leadership roles in private practice, professional organizations such as ASLA, non-profits, and a series of high-profile project successes, Chad has illuminated the potential of landscape architecture. His mission is to demonstrate the immense positive impact that landscape architecture—particularly in inclusive play, recreation, and resource conservation—can have on the world. In an era marked by societal challenges such as economic instability and global unrest, Chad firmly believes that access to recreation has the power to be a unifying and healing force. His philosophy stems from an understanding: individuals who play, socialize, and recreate lead happier, healthier, and more fulfilling lives.

Pioneering Leadership in Inclusive Design: The Awesome Spot Playground

Among Chad’s most notable achievements is his leadership in the creation of the Awesome Spot Socially Inclusive Playground in Modesto, CA. This ground breaking project brings research-based sensory integration, technologically advanced play features, and socially inclusive, accessible design to California’s Central Valley. The playground, currently under construction with a planned opening in 2025, is designed to serve as a model for the region and a global inspiration for inclusive play environments. Using an inclusive design audit tool that Chad personally developed and freely shares to advance the inclusivity of projects worldwide, the Awesome Spot Playground incorporates 72 inclusive activities, including cognitive, sensory, physical, interoceptive, proprioceptive, vestibular, and social opportunities. This innovative playground goes beyond ADA compliance, creating an environment where people of all ages and abilities can engage, learn, and thrive. Since the project’s inception in 2016, Chad has served as its visionary leader. Beyond traditional design and construction roles, he has taken on extensive public outreach and advocacy. He developed and maintained the project website to galvanize public support, spearheaded over 50 fundraisers in his personal time, and created a comprehensive sponsor packet featuring the project story, inclusive design concepts, sponsorship opportunities, and play features. Chad has also meticulously managed project finances, tracking donations, sponsorships, and pledges to ensure alignment with the construction budget. His hybrid role—combining designer, advocate, educator, and fundraiser—has elevated not only the project’s credibility and progress, but the profession on landscape architecture, earning regional and national media attention. His efforts have included four radio features and three regional news interviews, where Chad was prominently identified as a landscape architect, creating an opportunity to explain the profession’s vital role in shaping inclusive spaces.

Chad Kennedy, ASLA, PLA, CPSI, LEED AP BD+C

Therapy Association

May/June 2012, "Utilizing On-Site Water Sources for a Comprehensive Approach to Irrigation", Land & Water Magazine

Spring 2012, "Comprehensive Inclusive Play Spaces!", California Parks and Recreation Magazine

2012-2019, Wrote 8 articles for the ASLA Field Blog

EXPERIENCE

2005-2025
Landscape Designer at entry to current Director, Landscape Architecture, O'Dell Engineering / Westwood Professional Services

2003-2005
Assistant Planner, The Rural Intermountain Planning Program / Center for Persons with Disabilities

2001-2002
Arborist Grounds Crew Member, Brigham Young University

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (NON-PAID)

04/16/25 - 2025 Play Conference:
Title: "A New Horizon for Children: Establishing Play and Growth Spaces in East Africa"

01/16/25 - 2025 TRAPS (Texas Recreation & Parks Society)
Institute: Title: "Combatting Trauma with Playful Spaces."

10/21/24 - Northwest Playgrounds - Continuing Education Course: Title: "Combatting Trauma with Playful Spaces."

10/06/24 - Conference on Landscape Architecture (ASLA).
Title: "Disability-Based Voices & Perspectives on Accessibility vs. Inclusive+ and Equity vs. Justice"

2021-2024 - University Guest Lecturer. Sacramento State University - Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration. Lecture topic: "Inclusive Play"

04/01/21 - 2021 U.S. Play Coalition 2021 Conference On Play, Clemson University. Title: "Opportunities for Play in Trauma Recovery"

- 2024-Current, Cherish Uganda Campus Planning, Uganda
- 2024-Current, MesaGlobal Playground Planning, Goma, DR Congo
- 2023-Current, ASHRAF Ability Centre, Uganda
- 2016-Current, The Awesome Spot Playground at Beyer Park
- 2023-Current, Boys and Girls Club of Modesto Activity Yard
- 2024, Music Garden at the Gallo Center for the Arts (Phase 2)
- 2024, Gem Village Inclusive Playground, Uganda
- 2023, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3199 Playground
- 2021-Current, Bellenita Sports Park
- 2022, Modesto Rotary Club Music Garden at the Gallo Center for the Arts
- 2021, Batista Memorial Garden
- 2021, Mercedale Park Inclusive Playground
- 2019, Our Lady of Fatima School Prayer Garden
- 2016, Zion's Camp Church Camp and Activity Facility
- 2015, Camp Taylor: Kids Heart Camp
- 2015, University Charter School Playground
- 2015, Wesson Ranch Park Playground
- 2014, Fairview Park
- 2014, Keyes Park and Bonita Pool
- 2011, Fremont Elementary School Outdoor Stage
- 2011, Modesto Dog Park
- 2011, River Park Wayfinding Design Competition
- 2009, Heller Park
- 2009, Cornerstone Covenant Church Prayer Garden
- 2008, Mancini Park
- 2008, Merced River Restoration
- 2006, Historic Rogers Fountain Restoration
- 2006, Brotherhood Church
- 2006, BSA Landscape Architecture Merit Badge Clinic

International Leadership: Inclusive Play in East Africa

Chad's influence extends globally through his collaboration with Engineering Ministries International (EMI) and Kids' Around the World on projects in Uganda. One amazing example is the Gem Inclusive Playground, the first of its kind in a nation where disability is often stigmatized. This playground, designed for the Gem Foundation, provides a safe, inclusive play space for more than 45 orphaned and abandoned children with special needs. Inspired by Chad's TEDx talk on inclusive design, EMI leaders sought his expertise, leading to a pro-bono collaboration that included design work, on-site construction assistance, and Chad's personal presence in Uganda to ensure successful implementation.

Chad's work in East Africa has expanded to include projects such as a playground for the ASHRAF Ability Center in Lugazi, a medical care center master plan in Kampala, and playgrounds in Gulu, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His efforts have brought inclusive play and healing landscapes to regions where these concepts were previously unheard of, challenging cultural norms and highlighting the global potential of landscape architecture to drive positive change.

Expanding National Impact Through Advocacy and Education

Domestically, Chad has supported numerous projects, including the Mercedale Inclusive Playground in Washington. This initiative, driven by a non-profit supporting individuals with CTNNB1 chromosome syndrome, benefited from Chad's expertise in design review, public presentations, and project coordination. This collaboration was sparked by one of Chad's professional speaking engagements, demonstrating his ability to inspire action and partnerships through educational leadership.

In addition to project-based work, Chad has made significant contributions to advancing the industry through public speaking and publishing. His TEDx talk on inclusive play reached a broad audience, while his ongoing publication, Land Connections, disseminates critical information on landscape architecture topics, including policy, social justice, and sustainable design. Since its inception in 2008, this resource has fostered greater collaboration and understanding across allied professions.

Recognition and Educational Leadership

Chad's expertise has been featured in national and international publications, including Land & Water Magazine, Play & Playgrounds Magazine, California Parks and Recreation Magazine, and the Canadian Horticulture Therapy Association Journal. He continues to travel nationwide, educating professionals on the importance of inclusive design and landscape architecture's critical role in creating equitable, sustainable, and joyful spaces.

Transforming the Profession and Expanding Its Reach

Chad's work demonstrates that the role of a landscape architect extends far beyond design and construction. His innovative leadership, whether through pro-bono projects, public advocacy, or educational efforts, has elevated the profession to new heights. By addressing critical social issues, advancing inclusive play, and showcasing the value of recreation and landscape architecture, Chad has redefined the possibilities of the field and inspired a new generation of professionals to follow his example.

Chad Kennedy, ASLA, PLA, CPSI, LEED AP BD+C

11/17/19 - 2019 Conference on Landscape Architecture (ASLA). Title: *"The Transformation of Inclusive Design: Evidence-based Research Supporting Holistic Playground Design"*

11/05/18 - Oregon Recreation and Park Association 2018 Conference. Title: *"Enough Talk about Inclusion: Making it Happen from Research to Ribbon Cutting"*

09/20/18 - TEDxModesto. Title: *"Exploring Social And Sensory Barriers That Impede Play In Public Spaces"* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYBg8z5U_c

11/16/18 - ASLA Online Learning Webinar. Title: *"Integrating and Planning for Children with Sensory Processing Disorders in Outdoor Play Environments"*

03/03/17 - California & Pacific Southwest Recreation & Park Training Conference 2017. Title: *"Park Partners: Public/Private Partnerships that Create Communities"*

03/09/16 - California & Pacific Southwest Recreation & Park Training Conference 2016. Title: *"Drought Friendly Recreation-Responsible Approaches to Mitigate Water Use and Provide Alternative Recreation"*

05/15/15 - California Association of Recreation and Park Districts 2015 Conference. Title: *"Tips for Responsible Irrigation During California Droughts."*

02/15/15 - U.S. Play Coalition 2015 Conference on Play, Clemson University. Title: *"Sensory Diet Integration in the Play Environment"*

03/12/15 - California & Pacific Southwest Recreation & Park Training Conference 2015. Title: *"Recreation Programs & Resources for Special Needs"* CPRS Recreation Therapy Special Feature

03/07/14 - California & Pacific Southwest Recreation & Park Training Conference 2014. Title: *"Integrating Sensory Diets into the Play Environment"*

03/07/13 - California & Pacific Southwest Recreation & Park Training Conference 2013. Title: *"Building Inclusive Communities through Play"*

SUMMARY BY CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

Mr. Chad Kennedy dedicates much of his time to serve our community with his professional knowledge, despite his busy family and work life. He was one of the first outstanding figures who realized the importance and benefits of inclusive play and actively brought the idea into his work, including his designs and publications. Mr. Kennedy's work has not only impacted landscape architecture in the US, but also those around the world through his collaborations with international organizations. His relationship with the ASLA CA Sierra Chapter began in 2006, when he took on the role as our San Joaquin Valley Rep. During his time with the Chapter, he has helped us establish a place within the San Joaquin Valley community through organizing the Modesto Architecture and Design (MAD) Week and effectively connected us with the landscape architecture professionals in the area. On a personal note, Mr. Kennedy has been a great mentor and a trusted person to rely on. He is not afraid to introduce emerging professionals to resources and open them to opportunities that will help them grow. With his passion, knowledge, and selflessness, we believe that Mr. Kennedy is what a ASLA fellow should be, and thus, we are excited to nominate Mr. Chad Kennedy for the ASLA Council of Fellows.

TESTIMONIALS

Chad Kennedy exemplifies what an ASLA Fellow should be. Having known Chad for nearly 11 years through leadership roles in the COE PPN, collaborating on multiple landscape projects, and co-authoring The Nature of Inclusive Design (Routledge), I fully attest to his exemplar qualities as an LA and person. Chad's authentic compassion, commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, and exquisite attention to detail for inclusive design, positions him as a leader within the landscape architecture community and beyond.

Amy Wagenfeld, PhD, OTR/L, EDAC, FAOTA, Affiliate ASLA
Affiliate Associate Professor, University of Washington

I have known Chad Kennedy throughout his career, over which Chad has continually demonstrated leadership and commitment to the discipline and expanding its impact. In addition to being a skilled practitioner, his projects and actions reflect his commitment to equity, well-being, and quality of life through environmental design. Chad is an advocate for the potential of landscape architecture to benefit society, using his expertise in the discipline as a catalyst for positive change.

Keith Christensen, PhD, RLA, ASLA
Department Head at Utah State University
Department of Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning

Chad Kennedy is an outstanding Landscape Architect. His commitment to creating outdoor spaces for people with and without disabilities continues to advance the art of Landscape Architecture. Chad has set national examples for others to follow, by bringing equality and inclusion to life on projects like, Awesome Spot Playground, Empowerment Park, and many more. Great leaders dedicate their lives to serving a cause bigger than themselves. Chad's dedication to improve lives, creating connections, and inspiring inclusion, defines Chad as a great leader.

Natalie Mackay, Executive Director
Unlimited Play

Chad cares deeply about who he is designing for. In a world so often driven by profit, his pro-bono work with our team has been exceptional. His willingness to work across continents, cultures and budgets is a testimony to his belief that quality design is for everyone. His expertise in inclusive play will not only have a lasting impact on the special needs community in Uganda, but on the profession in East Africa."

Hannah Arensen, Project Manager
Engineering Ministries International, Uganda



Kennedy Image 01
TEDx Speech

Memorizing a twenty-minute speech, presenting live to hundreds of people, and viewed by thousands online, is a very stressful proposition, but Chad was happy to utilize the very popular TED talk forum to educate anyone interested about landscape architects and their monumental role in changing environments and the world.



Kennedy Image 02
The Nature of Inclusive Play

Chad recognized a gaping hole in relevant research-based design aids for disability planning, and in an effort completely unattached to seeking profit, he co-authored a 200+ page book specifically for designers, educators, and therapists to educate the public on how to approach inclusive play more holistically.



Chad Kennedy stands by the painting he and other Scouts created and donated to Westmore Elementary School as an Eagle project.

Scout uses artistic talents to create unique gift for Westmore

Eagle Scout projects come in all shapes and sizes, but Chad Kennedy, 18, came up with a real winner.

For his project, the Mountain View senior directed fellow Scouts in creating a colorful acrylic painting that now graces one of the main halls at Westmore Elementary School in Orem.

Chad said he has taken a number of art classes, and really enjoys the subject. He decided to do the painting, he said, because he wanted to "help someone with something I like." He was aware of the vandalism incident at Westmore some time ago in which artwork decorating the school was damaged. Having attended Westmore throughout his elementary school years, Chad decided he wanted to contribute something positive.

Chad's friends helped block the painting in, and he completed most of the detail work. An estimated 103 hours were

spent on the project, including the framing, he said.

The painting consists of a mural of four scenes. Chad said he hopes that children and others who view the painting will be taken on a trip through history, and get a feel for how technology and development came about.

Moving from left to right on the mural, the first scene features a red rock Southern-Utah type arch with mountains in the background. A Native American is riding a horse in the foreground and has his body extended straight, his arm poised to throw a spear. In the next scene, a pioneer boy is running through the grassy plains, the view set against a backdrop of mountains and a covered wagon.

The third scene has an older man running across the street of a frontier town featuring a bank, hotel, and livery and blacksmith shop. The final scene has a Brigham Young University foot-

ball player catching a pass on the grounds of the state capitol.

Chad said the spear of the Native American sends the eye across the painting to the football player catching the pass, which provides closure. No particular BYU player was portrayed, although Eric Drage's number was used. Brigham Young's head was painted on the figure of the man in the frontier town.

"I had a blast," Chad said of his efforts to produce the work of art. He feels that the painting can be a good way to teach, with visual learning being "better than a textbook".

Chad said he plans to continue to pursue his interest in art in one form or another. He is thinking about majoring in landscape architecture in college. Future plans also include a church mission. Chad is the son of Linda and Lewis Kennedy, and he has three brothers and two sisters.

Kennedy Image 03
Eagle Scout Service Project

At the age of sixteen Chad knew he wanted to be a landscape architect and was already using his skills as an artist to give back. This newspaper clipping highlights the small group he organized and their painting that replaced art vandalized during a break-in at his childhood elementary school.



Kennedy Image 04
Awesome Spot Playground (Construction in progress)

Chad took on atypical roles during this project showing that landscape architects can be leaders for positive community change. Pro-bono services included conceptual designs, construction drawings, sponsorship program development, magazine and graphic design services, fundraising assistance, website development and management, public advocacy, grant writing services, construction management, and fund oversight.



Kennedy Image 05
GEM Village in Uganda (Digital 3D model)

Chad coordinated and worked with a worldwide design team to develop drawings for a playground for children with disabilities in Kakiri Uganda. Typical western equipment and materials are unavailable, so the project faced many challenges meeting safety and accessibility standards. This will set the standard for future playgrounds in Uganda.



Kennedy Image 06
Modesto Architecture Festival

Chad was instrumental in developing, planning, and implementing a children's event at the Modesto Architecture and Design Week Festival for eight years. He introduced hundreds of children each year to landscape architecture, sustainability, and design. Seen here was a doghouse build, complete with insulated panels and a drip-irrigated green roof.



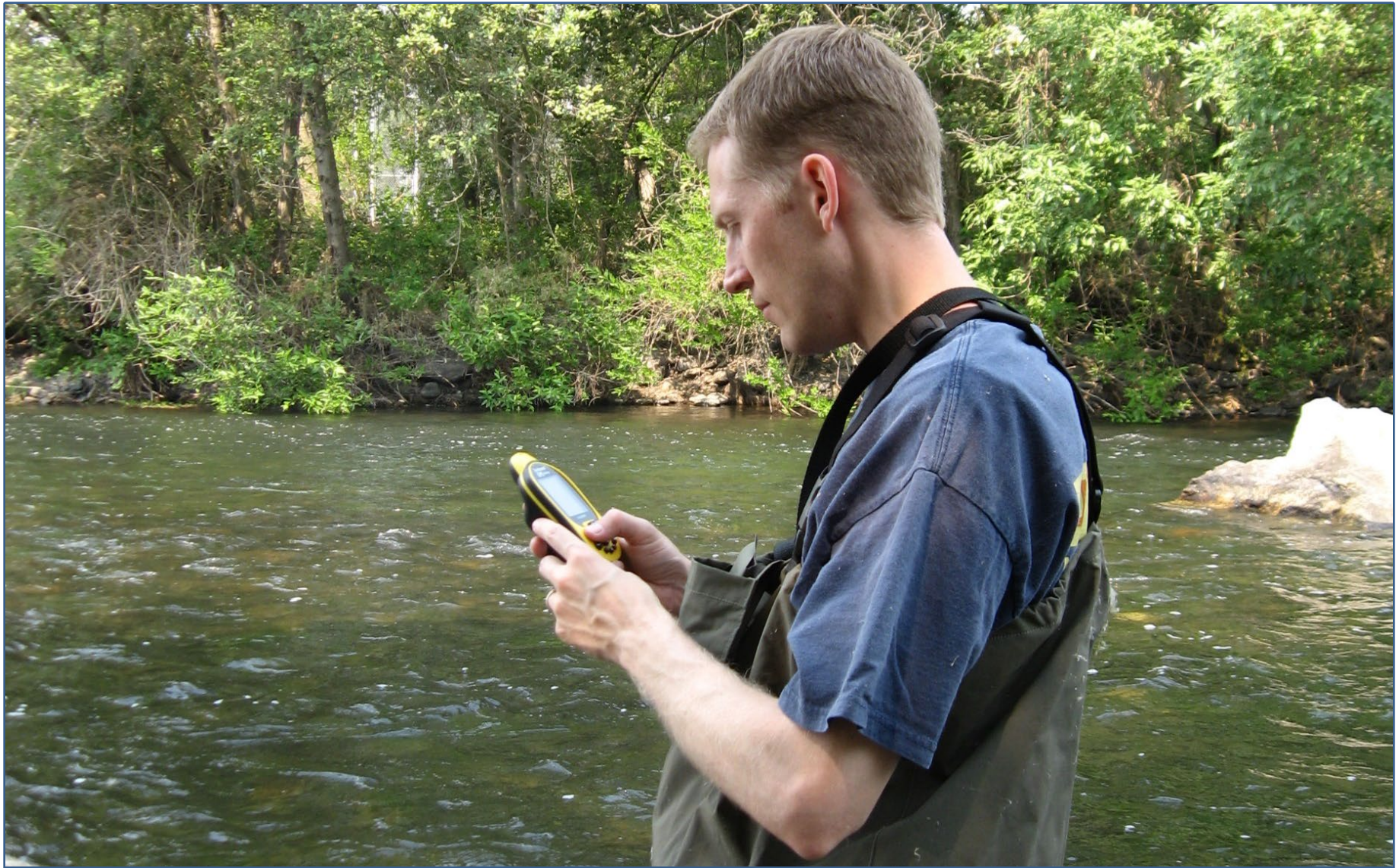
Kennedy Image 07
Ogong Village Playground Construction

This photo was taken on one of the playground structure build days at a small rural village near Gulu Uganda where Chad and his family joined with an organization, Kids Around the World, to build a rare playground for the village.



Kennedy Image 08
Heller Park Community Design Charette

This photo was taken at a community outreach event where Chad organized and ran a design charette for a small park in a low-income area of Atwater, CA. He gathered landscape architects from throughout the region to link them in the common interest of giving back to their communities.



Kennedy Image 09
Merced River Salmonid Spawning Bed Restoration

Chad donated his time to help restore salmon spawning beds in the Merced River. He helped scout the site, survey, design the restoration plans, and develop a winning grant. This effort showcased the capabilities of the landscape architecture profession to an atypical audience, the CA Department of Fish and Game.



Kennedy Image 10
Modesto Rotary Club Centennial Music Garden at the Gallo Center for the Arts

Though not a member of the Rotary Club, Chad jumped right in and, at no cost, designed, prepared plans for, and performed construction management services for the 2020 Centennial MORO project, a public music garden prominently placed in the front yard of the City's Performance Theatre.